



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Northampton, MA

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Northampton for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The City of Northampton (population 30,000) is situated on the banks of the Connecticut River, a designated American Heritage River, in west-central Massachusetts. This Pilot targets five sites in the city's Historic Mill River Corridor, a strip of land that passes through downtown. Specific target sites include a former felt manufacturing plant with above-ground hazardous substances storage tanks, a former factory facility that may have been a machine shop and is now a residential property, and a former coal gasification plant.

Northampton's brownfields sites are randomly scattered throughout the city in neighborhoods of all income levels. In the downtown, however, brownfields disproportionately affect predominately low- and moderate-income populations. Each of the target sites selected for the Pilot is in or near a residential neighborhood in need of economic growth and redevelopment. Due to the city's rapidly declining industrial base, the current economic strength has shifted to retail and commercial operations that generally pay less than industrial sector jobs. Although the city's unemployment rate is low, the poverty level is nearly 12 percent because low-wage jobs predominate the economy. The average annual wage is \$29,345, or approximately two-thirds of the state average of \$44,329.

OBJECTIVES

The city's objective is to return three sites in the Historic Mill River Corridor to productive reuse. To accomplish this goal, Pilot funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments at three sites, ensure that the community is involved in Pilot activities and decision making, and prepare final reports on all three sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Northampton,
Massachusetts*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets three former industrial sites for redevelopment in the Historic Mill River Corridor downtown.

Contacts:

City of Northampton - Office of Planning and Development	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 1
(413)587-1265	(617)918-1424

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on the three identified properties;
- Preparing cleanup and reuse plans for these sites; and

- Conducting community outreach activities to keep the public informed of Pilot activities and to encourage their participation in decision making.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.